Independent Office,
New York, Dec. 26, 1865.

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My Dear Garrison,

As the Liberator will close its existence the present week, I am moved to send you a few words of congratulation upon so auspicious an ending of your editorial labors.

Surely you are the most fortunate of men! The agitation begun by you less than forty years ago, for the

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immediate abolition of slavery,
has fulfilled the purpose
for which it was created,
and it is your privilege, though
scarcely yet an old man,
to witness the complete tri-
umph of the cause to which
your life has been devoted.
In all the broad extent of
our country not a slave is
legally held! By a solemn
decree of the American people
the holding of a human being
as property is henceforth made a crime
by the fundamental law. It
is fit that a paper established

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for the sole purpose of abolishing slavery should now cease to live except in history. That you were divinely led to establish the Liberator I have ever believed, and it seems equally clear to me that in ~~stopping~~ choosing the time for stopping it you were guided by ~~to~~ a wisdom higher than your own. The official proclamation of the Constitutional Amendment has come in time to be embraced within the ~~year~~ allotted period of its life, and to be recorded in its pages. Be identified with that move-

Never, I believe, did any other
cause of such wide and far-
reaching importance as this
achieve ~~took~~ a triumph so complete
and ~~&~~ glorious in so short
a space of time. ~~If~~ Where in-
deed, except in the ~~If~~ lives of
Jesus and his apostles, shall
we find a parallel to the
birth, growth and final
success of the Anti-Slavery
Movement? "It is the Lord's
doing, and it is marvelous
in our eyes."

It has been my privilege,
dear Garrison, as you know, to
be identified with that move-

ment from the very beginning.
How well do I remember at this
moment the day on which the
first number of the Liberator ~~appeared~~
appeared! It was a small sheet,
but it was large enough to shake the
land from centre to circumference.
The slaveholders gnashed their teeth
with rage; the timid, cowardly, compro-
mising North frowned and sneered
by turns; the pro-slavery Church, trembling ~~troubled~~ under
a sense of her blood-guiltiness, "es-
sayed her ghostly charms," vainly
endeavoring to smother an agitation
which disturbed her peace! The little
~~Liberator~~ paper, whose mission it was
to confront all these opposing influ-
ences, was made mighty by the
soundness of the principles it in-

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in exile and the pleasures and
power with which they were attended.
If there is any lesson to be learned,
more than another,
from the history of the anti-slavery move-
ment teaches, it is this: that before us,
to be successful, must be ~~founded~~
~~injustice and truth, and~~ stand
upon some well-defined moral
principle. It was the principle
of immediate, as opposed to gradual,
emancipation, that gave power
to the anti-slavery societies
with the Liberator brought into exist-
ence. It was the want of this that
made comparatively useless all the
previous movements against slavery.

X My mind, as it travels
back over the period covered by the
life of the Liberator, and dwells
upon the struggles and triumphs

that life is illustrated, is filled with
emotions too deep for words. What
a tide of reminiscences overwhelms
me! I can only say, in the fulness of a
grateful heart, that it is my joy
and pride now to remember,
that, from the day when the first
number of the Liberator was issued
until this very hour, it
has been my privilege to
be intimately associated with you;
and that, at various times, when
called to leave your post,
you honored me in leaving your
paper in my charge. To this life,
therefore, to some extent, my
own life is a part of that of the Liberator;
and perhaps on this account, if no other, I
may be pardoned for asking that this
brief and hurried letter, con-

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leaving but little of what it is in my heart to say, may find a place in its ~~last~~ concluding number.

With undying affection, I remain,

dear Garrison,

Your friend and fellow-laborer,

Rivès Johnson.

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